
amar chitra katha
No. 134
BABUR
THE FIRST MUGHAL EMPEROR OF INDIA
C.M.Vitankar

Babur was the descendant of the Mongol, Genghis Khan, on his mother's side and of the Turk, Timur-i-lang, on his father's side.

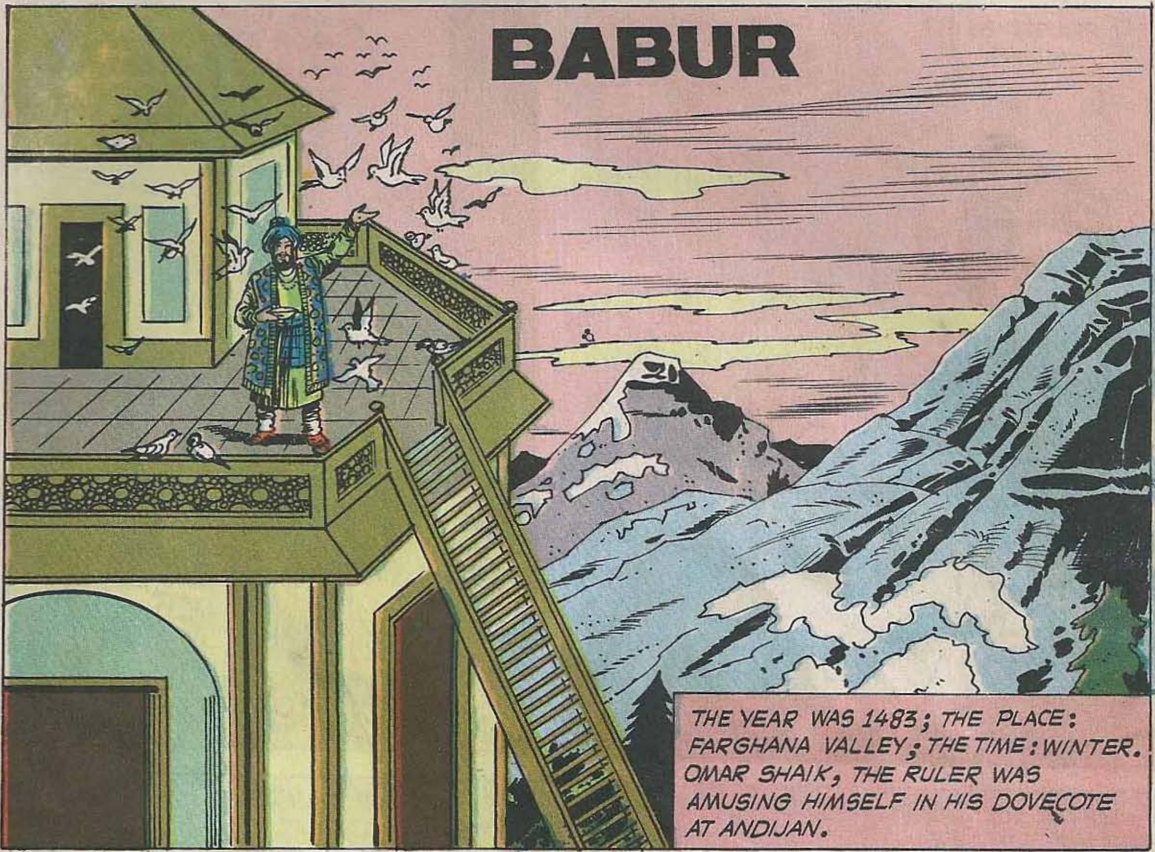
Timur's heirs had ruled over a kingdom which extended from the Caucasus foothills to Kashgar, but by 1495 it was split between four brothers. One of these was Omar Shaik, Babur's father, who ruled over Farghana, the snow-bound valley where Babur was born in 1483.

Nobody would have been able to forecast at that time (nor, indeed, for many years to come) that Babur would one day make his way into India, there to set up the Mughal Empire.

Babur was not just a good soldier or an able general; he was also a wise and just ruler, with qualities of generosity and good humour. Because of this, the common people and soldiers rallied round him wherever he went – even in times of misfortune.

Babur was a writer and a poet of high merit. In fact, he is one of the few persons in history about whom we have first-hand evidence – straight from his own pen. Babur's account of his life and time is written with a directness and sincerity which gives the *Babur-nama*, as his diary is called, an unmistakable ring of truth.

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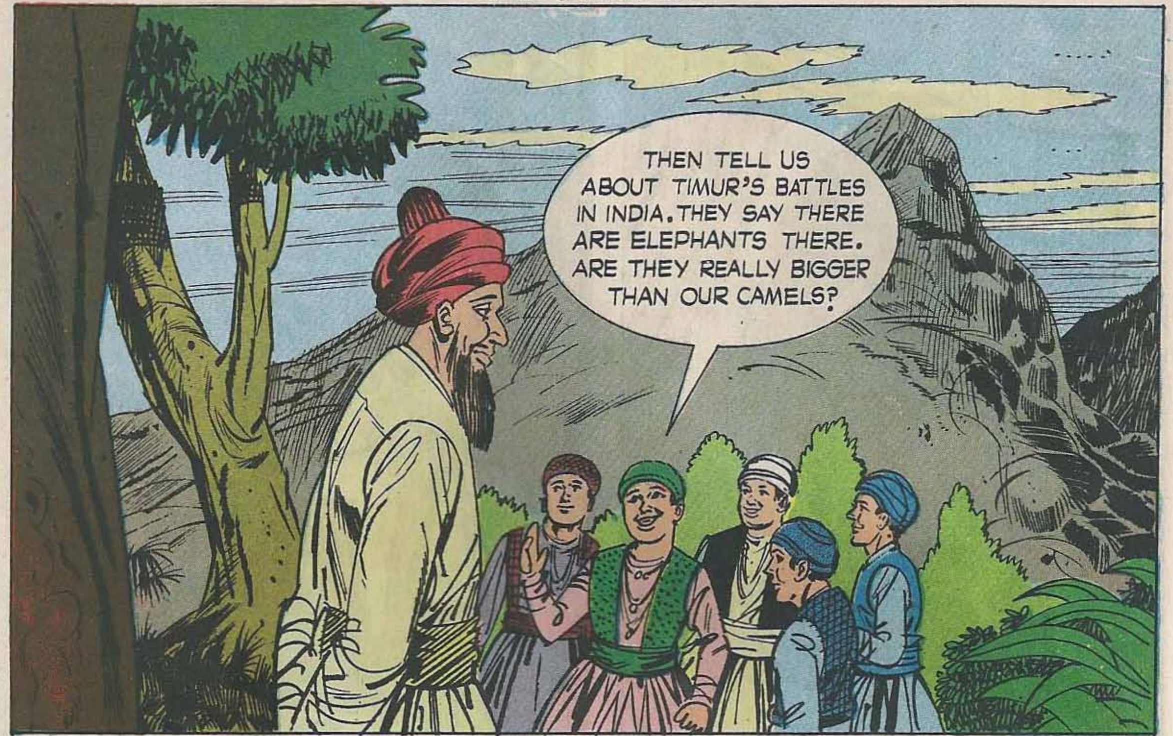

BABUR
THE YEAR WAS 1483; THE PLACE: FARGHANA VALLEY; THE TIME: WINTER. OMAR SHAIK, THE RULER WAS AMUSING HIMSELF IN HIS DOVECOTE AT ANDIJAN.

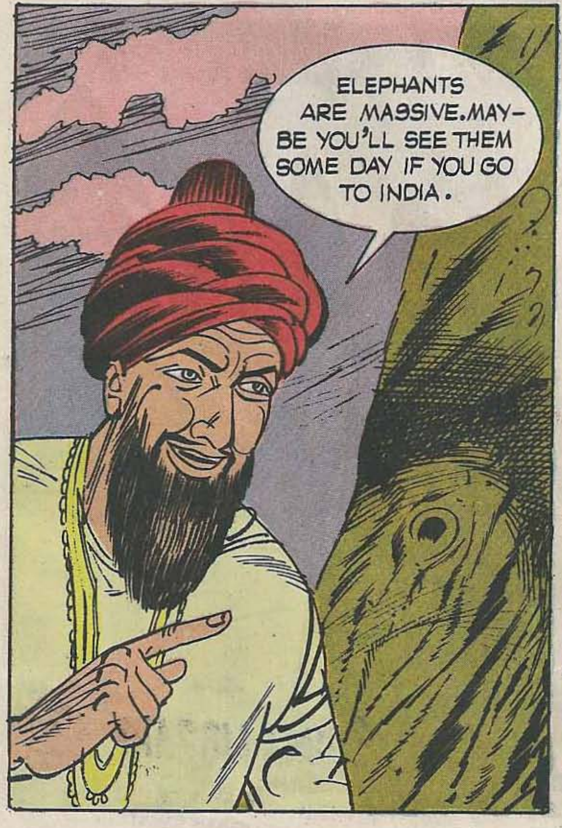

OMAR SHAIK DISLIKED BEING DISTURBED AT HIS FAVOURITE PASTIME BUT THIS TIME HE WELCOMED THE FAITHFUL LORD KASIM, WHO HAD JUST COME IN.
WELL?
IT'S A BOY, SIR.


PRAISED BE ALLAH!
HE IS A HEALTHY, BOUNCING BABY. HE WILL MAKE A GOOD RULER.
MAY YOUR WORDS PROVE PROPHETIC! MAY MY SON WIN BACK OUR LOST KINGDOMS AND UPHOLD THE GREAT NAME OF OUR ANCESTOR—TIMUR-I-LANG!
WHEN THE BOY WAS A YEAR OLD, HIS GRANDFATHER, WHO RULED FROM TASHKENT, ARRIVED WITH A GRAND RETINUE. WITH HIM CAME HIS WIFE, ISAN-DAULAT.
WELL, SON, WHAT IS YOUR NAME?
GRR... GRR...

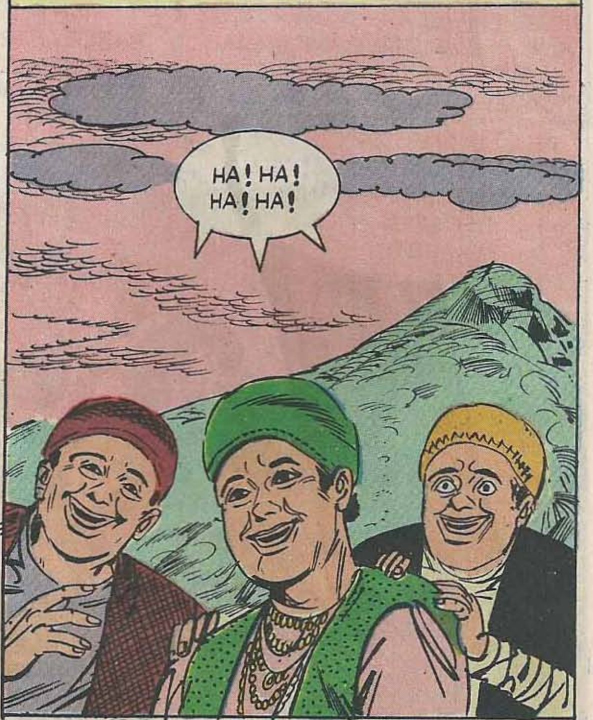


* BABUR MEANS "TIGER"





THE CHILDREN WERE AMUSED AT THAT. TO THEM, IN THEIR MOUNTAIN FASTNESS, INDIA SEEMED TO BE AT THE END OF THE WORLD!




NOT ALL BABUR'S TIME WAS SPENT IN LAUGHTER. AT ANDIJAN CASTLE, BABUR LEARNED TURKISH, PERSIAN AND ARABIC WHICH WERE THE LANGUAGES IN USE AROUND HIM. LIKE HIS FATHER, HE WAS DEEPLY INTERESTED IN THE GREAT MYSTIC, RUMI.
FATHER! RUMI WRITES BEAUTIFUL WORDS, BUT IT IS ALL SO STRANGE AND DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND...
YES, SON, BUT YOU WILL UNDERSTAND IT SOME DAY. NOW GO BACK TO YOUR TUTOR. HE IS WAITING TO SHOW YOU HOW TO USE THE SABRE.
ONE DAY MY SON SHALL RECAPTURE SAMARKHAND.
KASIM, DOES NOT MY STRIPLING OF A SON PERFORM WELL?

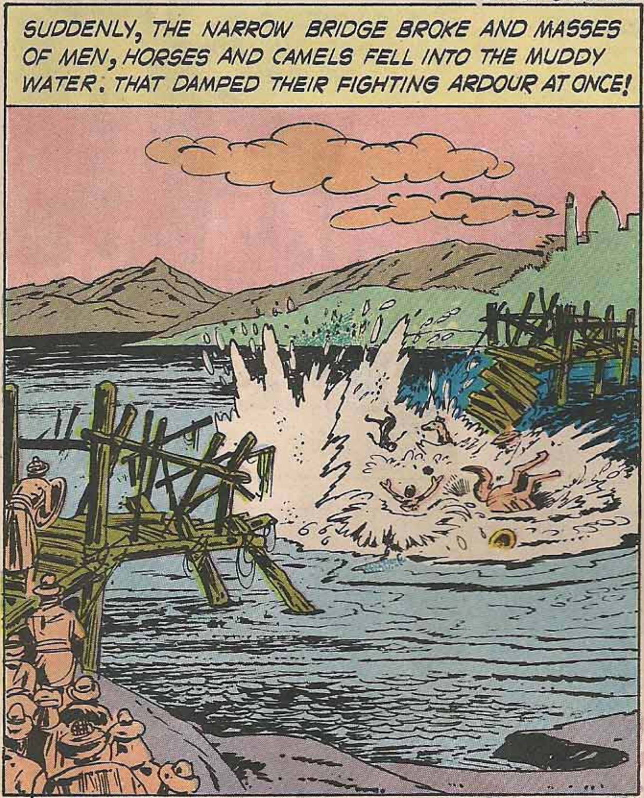

INDEED, MY LORD! AND YOU WILL HAVE MORE TO PRAISE HIM FOR.
YES, ON THE DAY HE MARCHES INTO SAMARKHAND!

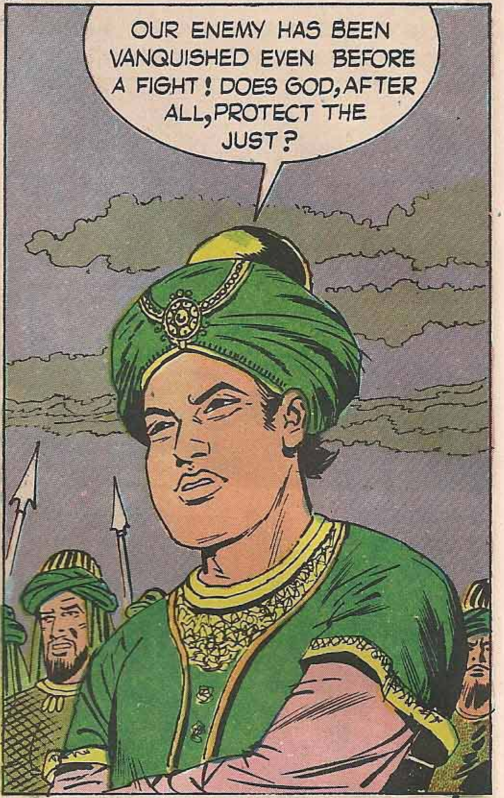

THIS IDYLLIC LIFE SUDDENLY ENDED IN 1494, WHEN BABUR WAS ONLY TWELVE YEARS OLD. ONE DAY, AS HE WAS HAPPILY FLYING HIS HAWKS IN A GARDEN...

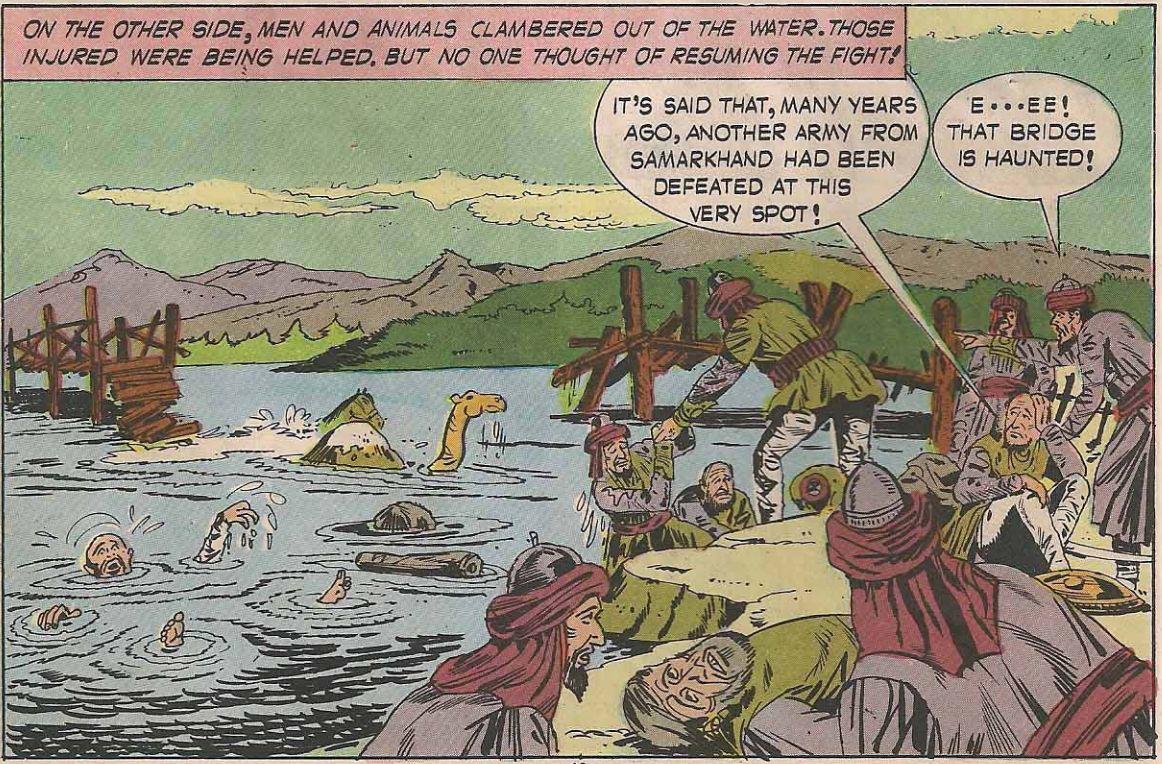

... A MESSENGER CAME UP, RIDING HARD.
WELL?
YOUR FATHER HAS BEEN CALLED TO HIS REST. TO YOU NOW FALLS THE TITLE OF "KING OF FARGHANA."
MY FATHER DEAD! HOW DID THIS HAPPEN?
HE WAS WITH HIS BELOVED PIGEONS IN THE DOVECOT WHEN IT SUDDENLY HURTLED DOWN THE CLIFF.
AH! MY POOR FATHER! OMAR SHAIK HAS TAKEN FLIGHT TO THE OTHER WORLD!

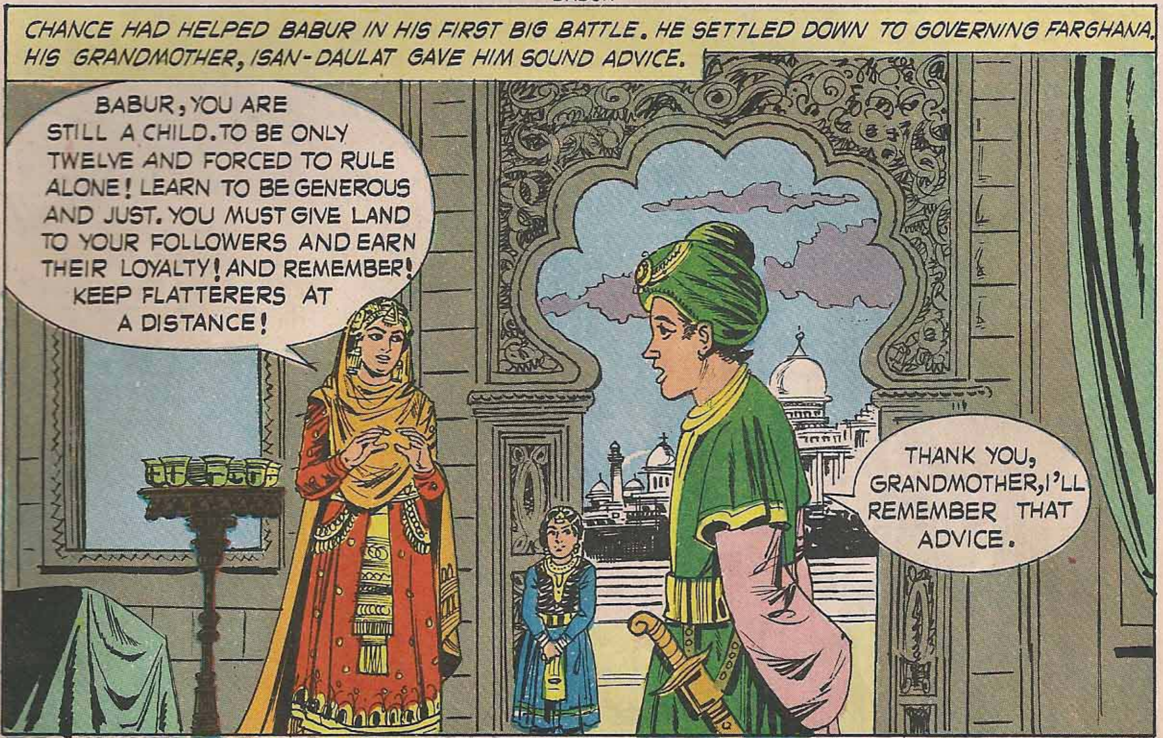

WHEN A CHILD INHERITS A KINGDOM, THERE ARE ALWAYS TRAITORS AROUND, AWAITING AN OPPORTUNITY TO SNATCH IT FROM HIM. LUCKILY, BABUR HAD LOYAL FRIENDS IN LORD KASIM AND JUDGE KHWAJA KAZI TO PROTECT HIM. BUT THERE WERE SERIOUS TROUBLES JUST AHEAD.
SULTAN AHMED OF SAMARKHAND AND PRINCE MAHMUD KHAN ARE MARCHING TOWARDS US!
BUT THEY ARE MY UNCLES. SURELY YOU MISTAKE THEIR INTENTIONS. DON'T YOU AGREE, JUDGE KAZI?
YES, BABUR. BESIDES, AHMED'S DAUGHTER, AYESHA, IS YOUR PROMISED WIFE!
BABUR, YOUR UNCLES CARE LITTLE FOR TIES OF KINSHIP. THIS IS AN INVASION. YOU MUST PROTECT YOUR PEOPLE.
KASIM WAS RIGHT. THE SULTAN'S MEN ADVANCED TOWARDS FORT ANDIJAN AS ENEMIES.
VICTORY IS CERTAIN. BABUR IS A MERE BOY! ATTACK THE FORT.


BABUR RODE OUT AT DUSK WITH A SMALL BAND OF MEN TO OBSERVE THE ENEMY'S MOVEMENTS.
IT IS NEARLY DARK, BUT THERE'S NO SIGN OF THE ENEMY.
PERHAPS WE HAD BETTER RETIRE.
SUDDENLY—
OH! GOD! THEY HAVE COME!
ON THEIR SIDE, THE BIG ENEMY CONTINGENT HAD SIMULTANEOUSLY SPOTTED THE ANDIJAN PARTY.
THAT'S A VERY SMALL GROUP FROM ANDIJAN TO WEL-COME US!
WE'LL FINISH THEM OFF AT ONCE!
HA! NO PROBLEM THERE!
COME, TO THE ATTACK!


SUDDENLY, THE NARROW BRIDGE BROKE AND MASSES OF MEN, HORSES AND CAMELS FELL INTO THE MUDDY WATER. THAT DAMPED THEIR FIGHTING ARDOUR AT ONCE!


OUR ENEMY HAS BEEN VANQUISHED EVEN BEFORE A FIGHT! DOES GOD, AFTER ALL, PROTECT THE JUST?


ON THE OTHER SIDE, MEN AND ANIMALS CLAMBERED OUT OF THE WATER. THOSE INJURED WERE BEING HELPED. BUT NO ONE THOUGHT OF RESUMING THE FIGHT!
IT'S SAID THAT, MANY YEARS AGO, ANOTHER ARMY FROM SAMARKHAND HAD BEEN DEFEATED AT THIS VERY SPOT!
E...EE! THAT BRIDGE IS HAUNTED!

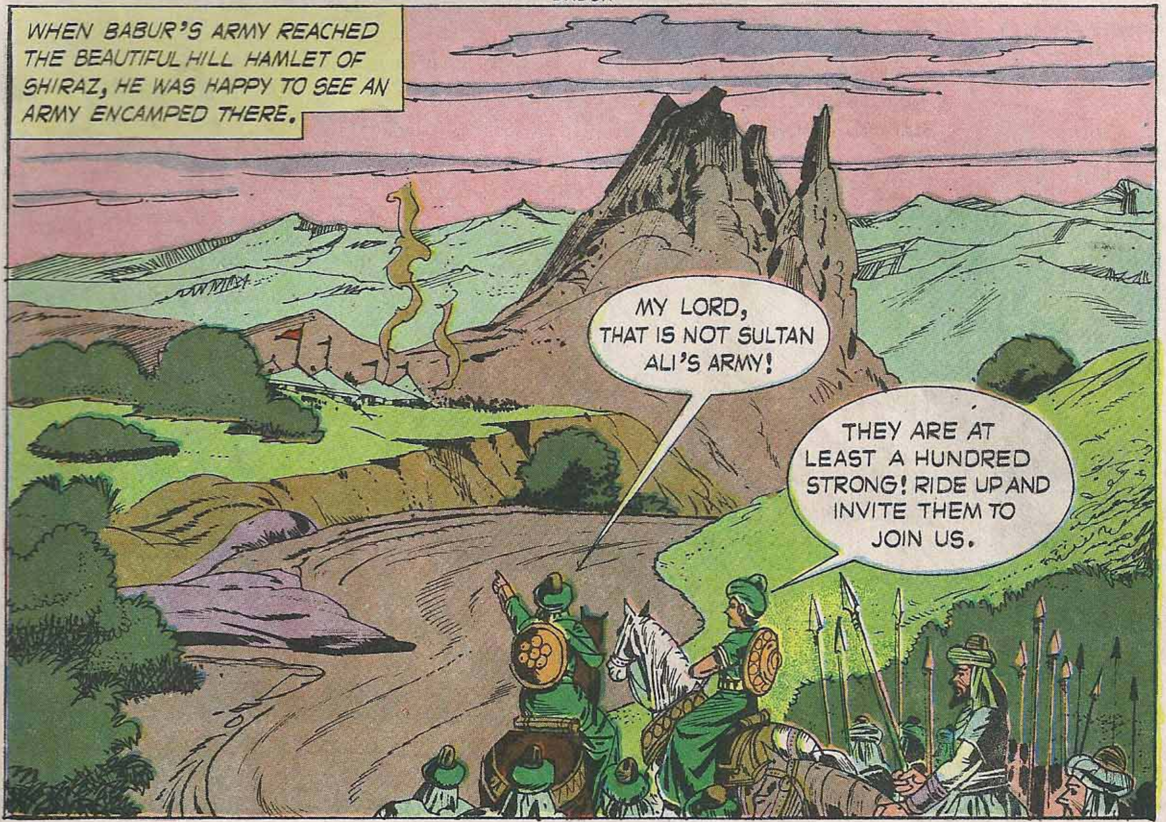

CHANCE HAD HELPED BABUR IN HIS FIRST BIG BATTLE. HE SETTLED DOWN TO GOVERNING FARGHANA. HIS GRANDMOTHER, ISAN-DAULAT GAVE HIM SOUND ADVICE.
BABUR, YOU ARE STILL A CHILD. TO BE ONLY TWELVE AND FORCED TO RULE ALONE! LEARN TO BE GENEROUS AND JUST. YOU MUST GIVE LAND TO YOUR FOLLOWERS AND EARN THEIR LOYALTY! AND REMEMBER! KEEP FLATTERERS AT A DISTANCE!
THANK YOU, GRANDMOTHER, I'LL REMEMBER THAT ADVICE.


FARGHANA IS BEAUTIFUL, BUT THE KINGDOM IS SO SMALL! UNLESS WE ALSO HAVE SAMAR-KHAND, WE ARE NOT SAFE. WITHIN THESE TWO BOUNDARIES, WE COULD HAVE A STRONG EMPIRE!
NOW WE ARE LIKE EXILES HERE! OH, BABUR, IF ONLY WE COULD LIVE IN SAMARKHAND!


YOU COULD. SULTAN AHMED IS DEAD. SAMARKHAND IS THE CENTRE OF STRIFE. THE TIME IS RIPE TO ATTACK IT.


AH! TO BEHOLD THE SHINING MINARETS OF TIMUR'S CITY!
YOUR FATHER WAS A GOOD MAN, BABUR, BUT HE WAS EASYGOING. THAT'S WHY WE LOST SO MANY CITIES FAR BEYOND FARGHANA.
DON'T GRIEVE, GRANDMOTHER. I'LL FIGHT TO GET THEM BACK! TIMUR'S THRONE IS THE ONLY ONE WORTH HAVING. I WON'T REST TILL WE TAKE SAMARKHAND.


AND BABUR MEANT TO KEEP HIS PROMISE. HE MADE A FEW FORAYS AND TOOK A BORDER TOWN OR TWO. SLOWLY HIS ARMY GREW.
SIR, A MESSAGE FROM YOUR UNCLE, SULTAN ALI: HE PROMISES TO JOIN YOU AT SHIRAZ WITH A HUGE CONTINGENT!
GOOD! LET'S PREPARE TO MARCH TOWARDS SAMARKHAND.


WHEN BABUR'S ARMY REACHED THE BEAUTIFUL HILL HAMLET OF SHIRAZ, HE WAS HAPPY TO SEE AN ARMY ENCAMPED THERE.
MY LORD, THAT IS NOT SULTAN ALI'S ARMY!
THEY ARE AT LEAST A HUNDRED STRONG! RIDE UP AND INVITE THEM TO JOIN US.


THE NEW ARMY JOINED BABUR. LATER, BABUR'S MEN MADE A STRANGE DISCOVERY.
THOSE NEW ARRIVALS, MY LORD, WERE SENT FROM SAMARKHAND TO FIGHT US OFF!
IT DOESN'T MATTER—NOW THEY ARE FIGHTING FOR US!
IN THIS WAY DID BABUR'S ARMY SWELL!


THEY FINALLY REACHED SAMARKHAND.
LORD KASIM, SAMARKHAND IS BEAUTIFUL TO BEHOLD, BUT NOT MINE YET!
SAMARKHAND IS BEAUTIFUL INDEED! I FEEL GOD DESTINED IT FOR YOU, BABUR.
HUSH! SUCH AUGURIES SHOULD BE REVEALED ONLY AFTER THE EVENTS HAVE PROVED THEM TRUE!
BABUR'S CAUTION WAS NOT UNFOUNDED. FOR SHAIBANI KHAN, DREADED LEADER OF THE UZBEK HORDES, HAD BEEN INVITED BY THE RULER OF THE BESIEGED CITY OF SAMARKHAND TO HELP FIGHT OFF BABUR.


BABUR AND HIS MEN WATCHED SHAIBANI'S ARRIVAL APPREHENSIVELY.
SO THAT'S THE UZBEK BARBARIAN!
SHAIBANI KHAN IS OUR SWORN ENEMY...
IT IS SAID THAT EVEN THE PEOPLE OF SAMARKHAND FEAR HIM.
BABUR MADE A QUICK DECISION.
FOLLOW ME! WE WILL FACE THE ENEMY FROM UP THERE!


WE CAN'T SEE BEYOND THAT RISE!
WAIT. IT'S A TRAP! THERE MUST BE AN ARMY BEHIND THAT GROUP!
BABUR, SHOULDN'T WE MOVE ON?
NO! LET THEM MAKE THE FIRST MOVE!


EVENING DESCENDED. BABUR'S MEN WERE STILL STANDING GUARD.
MY LORD, THE UZBEKS ARE RETREATING!
THEY ARE HEADING NORTH-WARDS.

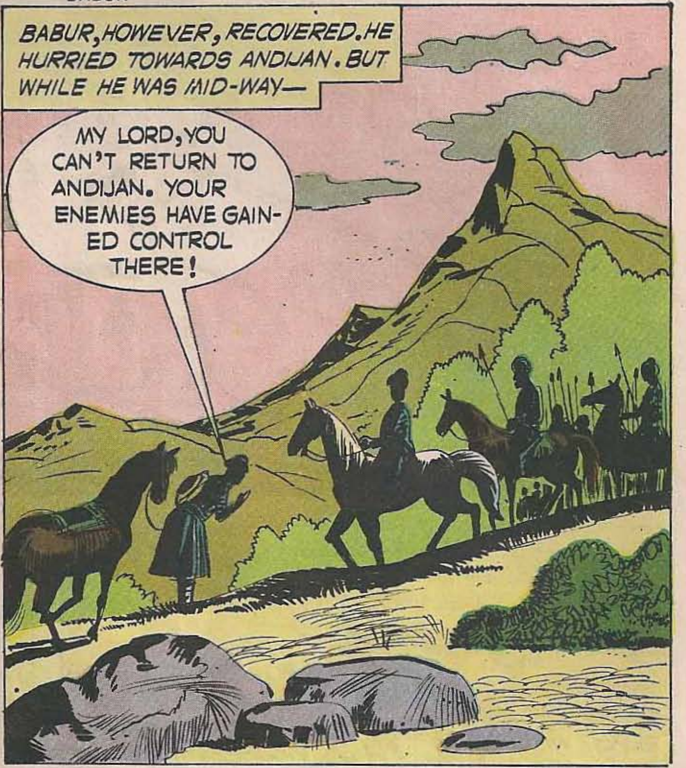

THE NEXT MORNING, THE TOWNSPEOPLE EMERGED FROM SAMARKHAND AND TO BABUR'S SURPRISE, SURROUNDED HIM WITH CRIES OF JOY.
BABUR! TRUE DESCENDANT OF THE TIMURS! WELCOME!
YOU HAVE SAVED US FROM THE DREADED UZBEKS!


BABUR WAS ESCORTED INTO SAMARKHAND.
TO TIMUR'S THRONE!
TO TIMUR'S THRONE!
SAMARKHAND WAS HIS AT LAST. BABUR'S DREAM HAD COME TRUE.


BUT WITHIN A HUNDRED DAYS, THE DREAM HAD TURNED INTO A NIGHTMARE.
OUR GRANARIES ARE EMPTY AND THE COUNTRYSIDE RUINED BY THESE LONG BATTLES! CAN YOU BLAME OUR SOLDIERS FOR DESERTING?
SO, THIS IS HOW WE SAVOUR THE JOYS OF CONQUEST! THIS CITY WILL SOON BE EMPTY, WITH ONLY ECHOES TO MOCK OUR GLORY!
THESE MONGOLS ARE AN UNRELIABLE LOT. WE WILL HAVE TO SEND FOR THE TROOPS WE LEFT BEHIND AT ANDIJAN.


THE MESSENGER SENT TO ANDIJAN, SOON RETURNED.
ANDIJAN IS ENCIRCLED BY SULTAN ALI'S ALLIES. YOUR YOUNGER BROTHER JEHANGIR HAS JOINED THEM.
WHAT !
THE SHOCKING NEWS MADE BABUR SERIOUSLY ILL.
IT IS PROVING HARD TO HOLD SAMARKHAND. AM I TO LOSE FARGHANA TOO ?
BABUR IS TRYING TO SAY SOMETHING BUT THE WORDS WILL NOT COME.
UNFORTUNATELY, NEWS OF BABUR'S CONDITION REACHED HIS FAITHFUL COMMANDER AT ANDIJAN.
BABUR LIES DYING AT SAMARKHAND.
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE ! ONLY A SHORT WHILE AGO WE HEARD THAT BABUR HAD VICTORIOUSLY ENTERED SAMARKHAND.
NOW YOU SAY HE IS DYING!
WHO WOUNDED HIM?
WOUNDS ARE NOT CAUSED BY WEAPONS ALONE. HIS BROTHER'S TREACHERY HURT HIM MORE.


WHAT'S THE USE OF DEFENDING THE CITY? IF BABUR IS DYING, JEHANGIR AND HIS ALLIES MIGHT AS WELL TAKE OVER!

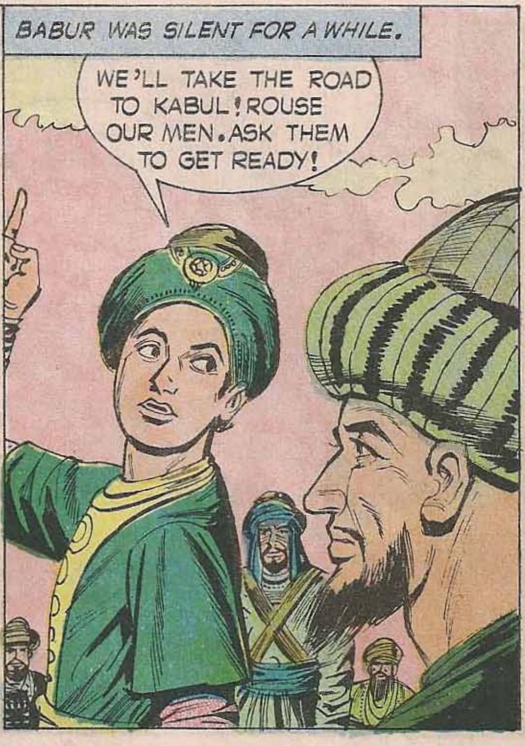

BABUR, HOWEVER, RECOVERED. HE HURRIED TOWARDS ANDIJAN. BUT WHILE HE WAS MID-WAY—
MY LORD, YOU CAN'T RETURN TO ANDIJAN. YOUR ENEMIES HAVE GAINED CONTROL THERE!


JUST AS BABUR SWUNG HIS HORSE ROUND TO RETURN TO SAMARKHAND, ANOTHER MESSENGER ARRIVED.
BABUR! AFTER YOU LEFT, YOUR UNCLE, SULTAN ALI, OCCUPIED SAMARKHAND.

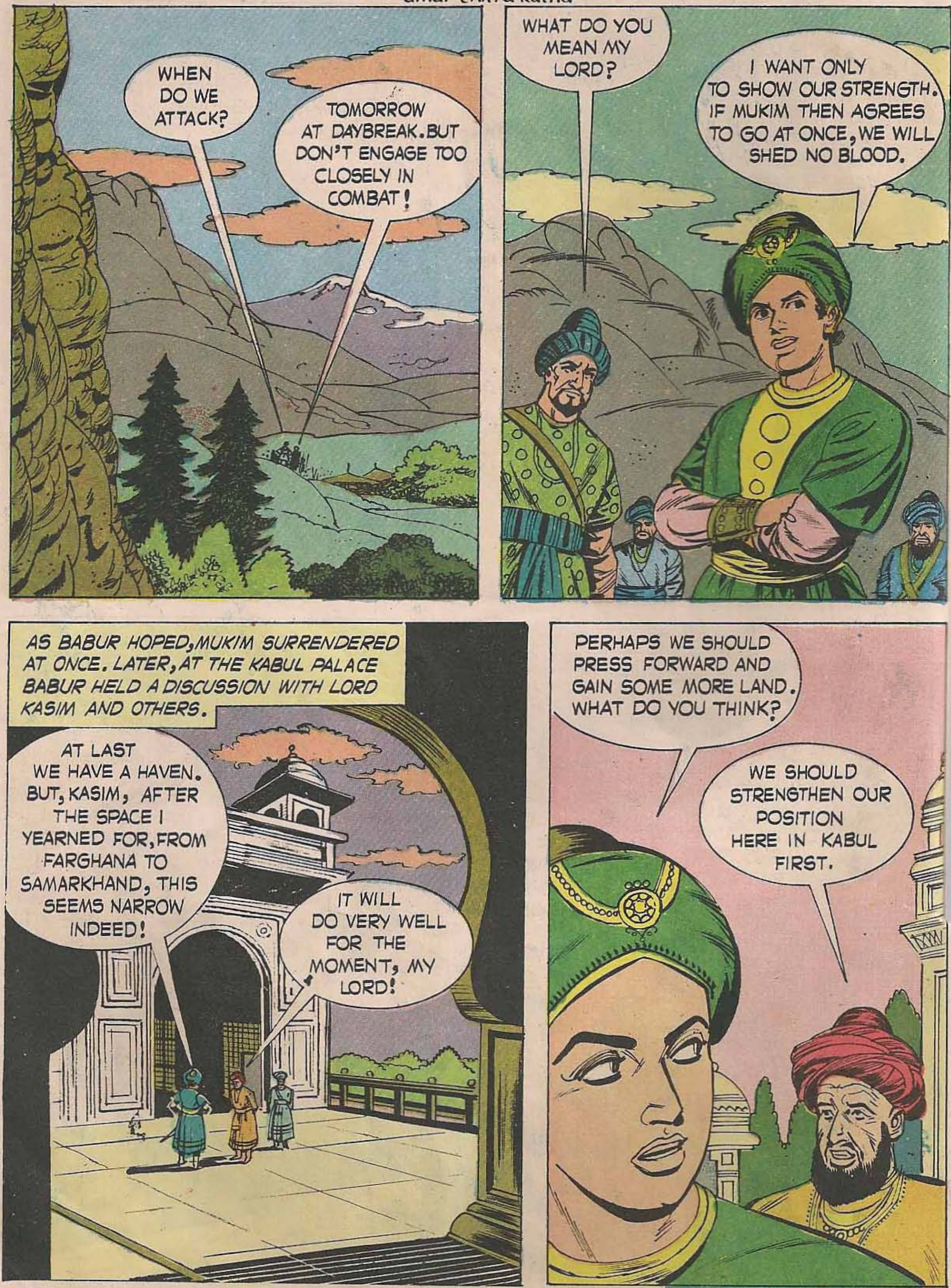

FOR THE SAKE OF ANDIJAN, I HAVE LOST SAMARKHAND... AND I HAVE LOST THE ONE WITHOUT SAVING THE OTHER!


BABUR BECAME AN EXILE. BUT SULTAN ALI MET WITH A WORSE FATE. HE WAS KILLED BY SHAIBANI WHO TOOK SAMARKHAND, AND FARGHANA AS WELL.
SHAIBANI BECOMES MORE POWERFUL EACH DAY. I MUST DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT!
BABUR WROTE TO HIS UNCLES, SULTAN HUSSAIN OF HERAT AND ULUGH BEG OF KABUL REQUESTING HELP.
BABUR, WHAT DOES SULTAN HUSSAIN REPLY? WILL HE HELP US?
MOTHER TO PUT IT BLUNTLY, HIS ANSWER IS "NO!" HE SAYS THIS WITH MANY FINE PHRASES, THOUGH.
AND ULUGH BEG? WHAT DOES HE SAY?
ANY MOMENT NOW OUR MESSENGER SHOULD BE HERE. I'LL GO OUT AND WAIT FOR HIM.
WHAT NEWS DO YOU BRING FROM KABUL?


YOUR UNCLE HAS LEFT THIS WORLD, MY LORD. THE TYRANT MUKIM SITS ON HIS THRONE AT KABUL. BUT THE PEOPLE WOULD PREFER BABUR, THE TIMURID PRINCE!


BABUR WAS SILENT FOR A WHILE.
WE'LL TAKE THE ROAD TO KABUL! ROUSE OUR MEN. ASK THEM TO GET READY!


OUTSIDE KABUL—
BEG KHAN, YOU WILL ADVANCE ALONG THAT RIVER.
HAKIM BEG, HAVE PITS DUG IN THE GROUND AND COVER THEM WITH DRY GRASS, SO THAT THE ENEMY WILL FALL INTO THE TRAPS!


WHEN DO WE ATTACK?
TOMORROW AT DAYBREAK. BUT DON'T ENGAGE TOO CLOSELY IN COMBAT!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN MY LORD?
I WANT ONLY TO SHOW OUR STRENGTH. IF MUKIM THEN AGREES TO GO AT ONCE, WE WILL SHED NO BLOOD.
AS BABUR HOPED, MUKIM SURRENDERED AT ONCE. LATER, AT THE KABUL PALACE BABUR HELD A DISCUSSION WITH LORD KASIM AND OTHERS.
AT LAST WE HAVE A HAVEN. BUT, KASIM, AFTER THE SPACE I YEARNED FOR, FROM FARGHANA TO SAMARKHAND, THIS SEEMS NARROW INDEED!
IT WILL DO VERY WELL FOR THE MOMENT, MY LORD!
PERHAPS WE SHOULD PRESS FORWARD AND GAIN SOME MORE LAND. WHAT DO YOU THINK?
WE SHOULD STRENGTHEN OUR POSITION HERE IN KABUL FIRST.


HE IS RIGHT. WE MUST BRING ORDER TO THE CITY AND SUBDUE THE HILL TRIBES IN THE SURROUND-ING AREA.
BABUR IS BEGINNING TO UNDERSTAND THAT TO BE KING IT IS NOT ENOUGH TO CONQUER.
THE TRUE RULER PROTECTS HIS PEOPLE FROM MARAUDERS...
...AND HE MUST TAX HIS PEOPLE REASONABLY, GIVE THEM GOOD LAWS, AND ROOT OUT THE CORRUPT.
THE YEARS THAT FOLLOWED WERE BY NO MEANS UNEVENTFUL. SHAIBANI KHAN WAS DRAWING CLOSER EVERY DAY AND WAS LIKELY TO ATTACK KABUL NEXT. BUT ONE DAY, BABUR RECEIVED ASTOUNDING NEWS FROM LORD KASIM.
THE UZBEK, SHAIBANI KHAN, HAS BEEN SLAIN!
SLAIN! HOW, KASIM? BY WHOM?

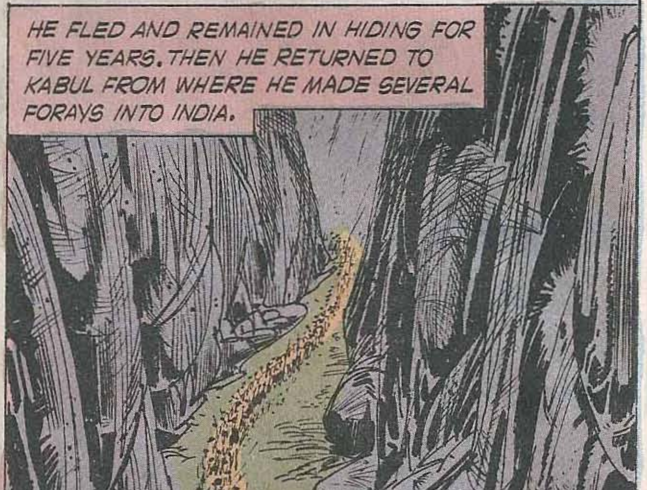

BY THE SHAH ISMAIL OF PERSIA. SHAIBANI'S ARMY WAS ROUTED!
NOW WE CAN SLEEP AT NIGHTS WITHOUT FEARING SHAIBANI'S APPROACHING DRUMBEATS!
WHAT'S MORE, TWENTY-THOUSAND MOGUL SOLDIERS, FORCED INTO SHAIBANI'S SERVICE, ARE NOW WAITING AT KANDUZ WITHOUT A LEADER.
TWENTY THOUSAND MOGULS. WAIT... LET ME THINK... YES, THAT'S IT. THIS IS THE CHANCE I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR...
YES... I WILL LEAD THEM TO SAMARKHAND!
SAMARKHAND! WHAT! DOES THAT DREAM STILL PERSIST?
BABUR WAS RUTHLESS WITH THE UZBEK CONTINGENTS HE MET ON THE WAY TO SAMARKHAND.
SOME UZBEKS ARE IN THE RAVINE BELOW, MY LORD!
PURSUE THEM!


WITH HIS ARMY, HE SWEPT PAST KARSHI AND BOKARA . . .
. . . TILL HE REACHED SAMARKHAND. ONCE AGAIN THE CITY GATES WERE THROWN OPEN TO HIM AS IF BY MAGIC, AND THE INHABITANTS WELCOMED HIM.
BABUR, OUR TRUE RULER, IS BACK!
BABUR IS BACK!
HE IS BACK!
AND ONCE AGAIN BABUR FOUND HIMSELF IN THE GREAT PALACE TIMUR HAD BUILT AT SAMARKHAND. BUT HIS VICTORY WAS LIKE ASHES IN HIS MOUTH.
TIMUR'S MAGNIFICENT THRONE HAS A DEEP BUT ALMOST INVISIBLE CRACK IN IT. MY VICTORY OVER SAMARKHAND IS LIKE THAT TOO . . . FLAWED, USELESS.
WHAT CAN THIS DEPRESSION MEAN, MY LORD? WHAT BOTHERS YOU?

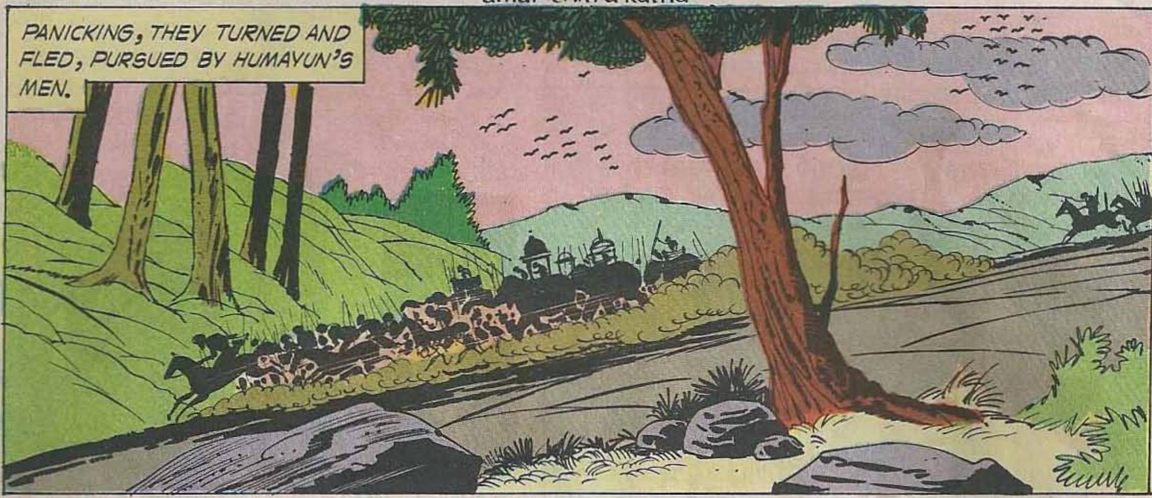

WE CAN'T DECEIVE OURSELVES FOR EVER, MY FRIENDS. THIS TRIUMPH WHICH SEEMS TO BE MINE IS REALLY DUE TO SHAH ISMAIL'S STRENGTH... AND NOW HE DEMANDS TO BE RECOGNISED AS SOVEREIGN!
THE PEOPLE OF SAMARKHAND WILL NOT LIKE THAT. THEY CONSIDER THE SHAH A HERETIC.


BUT WHAT CAN WE DO? THE UZBEKS ARE PREPARING TO RETURN AND FIGHT! WE WILL HAVE TO ACCEPT THE PERSIAN'S HELP!
YET, IF WE ACCEPT SHAH ISMAIL'S HELP, THE PEOPLE HERE WILL REBEL.


BABUR ACCEPTED SHAH ISMAIL'S HELP AND, FOR THE FIRST TIME, FOUND HIMSELF ALONE AND UNPOPULAR. WHEN THE UZBEKS ATTACKED HE HAD TO GIVE UP SAMARKHAND.


HE FLED AND REMAINED IN HIDING FOR FIVE YEARS. THEN HE RETURNED TO KABUL FROM WHERE HE MADE SEVERAL FORAYS INTO INDIA.


ONE DAY, HE HAD AN UNEXPECTED VISITOR AT KABUL. IT WAS ALAM KHAN, THE UNCLE OF IBRAHIM LODI, THE POWERFUL SULTAN OF DELHI.
WELL, ALAM KHAN, WHAT NEWS HAVE YOU BROUGHT?
MY LORD, I KNOW WE'VE HAD OUR DISAGREEMENTS BEFORE. BUT THE TIME IS RIPE NOW FOR YOU TO COME TO INDIA.
YOU ASK ME TO COME, BUT YOU KNOW MY TERMS. I WANT THE PUNJAB.
HELP ME TO OVERTHROW IBRAHIM LODI. THEN THE PUNJAB IS YOURS, AND DELHI MINE!
BABUR ARRIVED IN INDIA WITH HIS ELDEST SON, HUMAYUN. WHILE THEY WERE PREPARING TO MEET SULTAN IBRAHIM LODI, A MESSENGER ARRIVED WITH NEWS.
THE SHEIK OF HISSAR HAS ADVANCED THIRTY MILES TOWARDS US.
HUMAYUN SHALL DEAL WITH HIM!
AS THE HISSAR CONTINGENT MOVED FORWARD, HUMAYUN'S SMALL ADVANCING WING APPEARED SUDDENLY ON A HILL AND MISLED THEM.
SURELY THEY HAVE A HUGE ARMY BEHIND THIS WING!
THE WILY BABUR IS UP TO HIS TRICKS AGAIN!

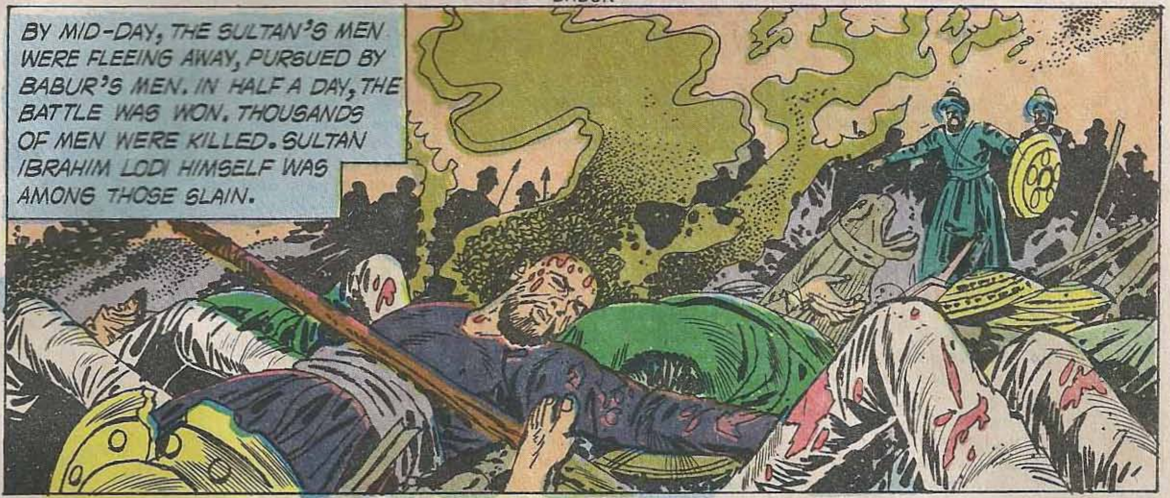

PANICKING, THEY TURNED AND FLED, PURSUED BY HUMAYUN'S MEN.


WHEN HUMAYUN'S VICTORIOUS WING RETURNED WITH A FEW HUNDRED CAPTIVES, ELEPHANTS AND OTHER SPOILS, THERE WAS JUBILATION IN BABUR'S CAMP.
THIS IS HUMAYUN'S FIRST EXPLOIT. THIS VICTORY IS A GOOD OMEN—IT PREDICTS OUR FUTURE SUCCESS!


BABUR WAS NOW FREE TO TURN HIS FULL ATTENTION TO THE SULTAN OF DELHI. HE CHOSE A SITE THAT SUITED HIM FOR BATTLE AND WAITED FOR THE SULTAN TO ATTACK. THEN THE NEWS HE WAS WAITING FOR CAME.
SULTAN IBRAHIM LODI IS APPROACHING.
THIS IS WHAT I WANTED TO HEAR! THE INACTION WAS BEGINNING TO BOTHER ME!

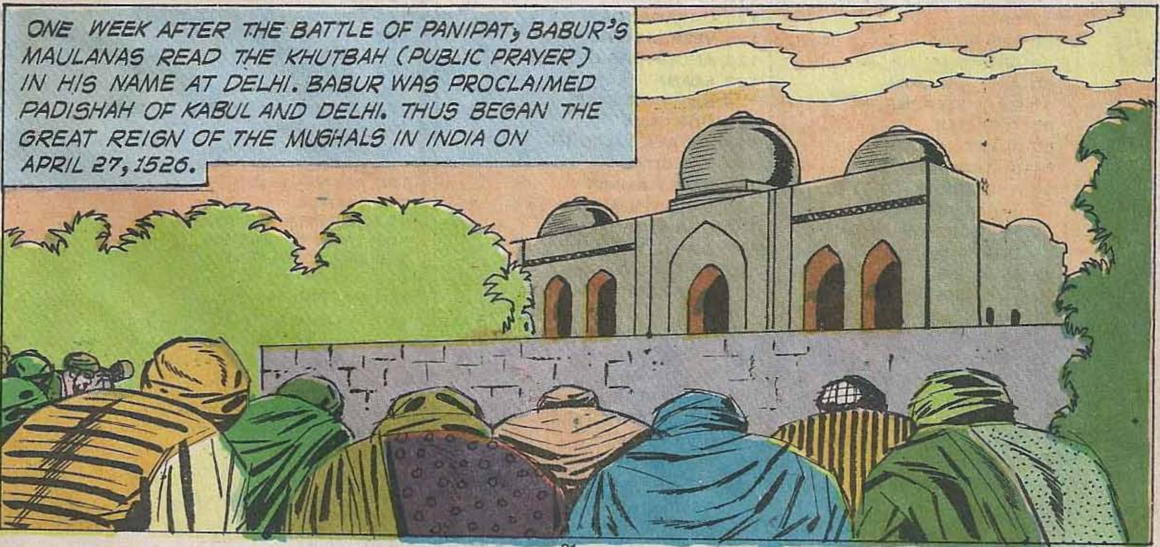

BABUR PREPARED CAREFULLY FOR THE BIG BATTLE WITH SULTAN IBRAHIM LODI ON THE PLAINS OF PANIPAT.
MY MEN, FOR THREE MONTHS WE HAVE BEEN ON THE ROAD AND WE ARE TIRED. SULTAN IBRAHIM HAS A STRONG ARMY OF A HUNDRED THOUSAND MEN...
...AND A THOUSAND ELEPHANTS!
HE HAS TREASURES SAVED BY HIS FATHER...
...AND GRANDFATHER!
STILL...NEITHER ANXIETY NOR FEAR HELPS AT ALL. YOU ARE WELL-TRAINED AND DISCIPLINED. EVERY MAN HERE KNOWS HIS JOB. AND WE HAVE OUR MATCHLOCKS AND CANNONS.
YES. WE ARE PREPARED!
TO ARMS!
TO ARMS!
ONE MORE WORD... THE SULTAN IS NOT LIKED BY HIS PEOPLE. THIS GIVES US A MORAL ADVANTAGE OVER HIM.
NOW GET READY FOR THE BATTLE WHICH WILL DECIDE OUR FATE IN THIS COUNTRY!


THE CANNON THERE • • • NO, A LITTLE FURTHER TO THE LEFT!
PLACE THE FELLED TREES ALONG THE OTHER LINE BY THE DITCHES!
ON APRIL 20, 1526 WORD CAME THAT IBRAHIM LODI WAS ADVANCING. BABUR'S MEN IMMEDIATELY TOOK THEIR PLACES.
THE ENEMY APPROACHES!
ON THE ALERT!
THE ENEMY'S ADVANCING ELEPHANTS WERE TURNED AWAY BY VOLLEYS OF ARROWS, WHILE THE GUNMEN FIRED STEADILY. ON THE RIGHT, TWO GENERALS BROKE OUT AND THE CAVALRY SWEPT ROUND THE FLANK OF SULTAN IBRAHIM LODI.
BOOM
BOOM
BY NOON BOTH FLANKS OF THE SULTAN'S ARMY WERE PENNED IN BY BABUR'S MEN.


BY MID-DAY, THE SULTAN'S MEN WERE FLEEING AWAY, PURSUED BY BABUR'S MEN. IN HALF A DAY, THE BATTLE WAS WON. THOUSANDS OF MEN WERE KILLED. SULTAN IBRAHIM LODI HIMSELF WAS AMONG THOSE SLAIN.


ON THE SAME DAY, AFTER THE VICTORY AT PANIPAT, BABUR SENT PRINCE HUMAYUN TO AGRA.
ENSURE THAT AGRA IS IN OUR HANDS AND GUARD THE TREASURY...


...AND YOU, MY MEN MAKE STRAIGHT FOR DELHI AND WATCH OVER THE TREASURY THERE.


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